



# South Dakota Economic Update

August 21, 2015

## Summary

Nonfarm payroll employment in South Dakota declined by 200 jobs and the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.8 percent in July according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

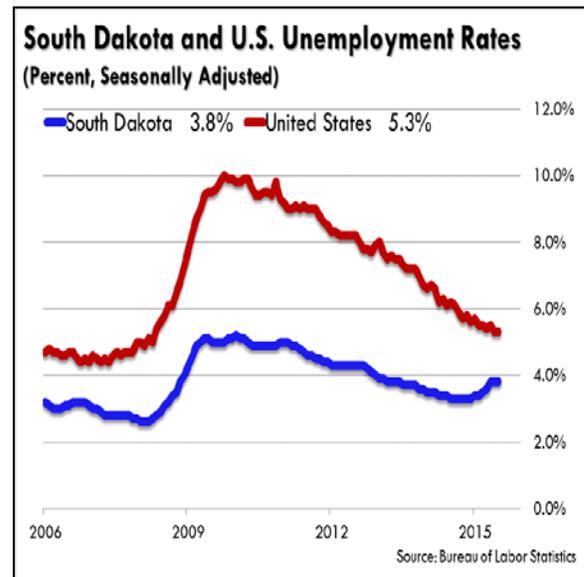
## South Dakota Unemployment Rate

During July, the unemployment rate in South Dakota was unchanged at 3.8 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 90 in July to 17,269, while the labor force grew by 276 to 455,914. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 6 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than South Dakota. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in South Dakota stood at 3.3 percent.

The 10 year peak for the unemployment rate in South Dakota was 5.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in South Dakota occurred in January 1983 when the unemployment rate reached 5.9 percent.

The 10 year low for the unemployment rate in South Dakota was 2.6 percent in March 2008. The series low for the unemployment rate in South Dakota occurred in July 2000 when the unemployment rate reached 2.4 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3 percent in July. July's unemployment rate was 0.9 percentage point lower than a year earlier when the rate stood at 6.2 percent. The ten year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The ten year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



## South Dakota Payroll Employment

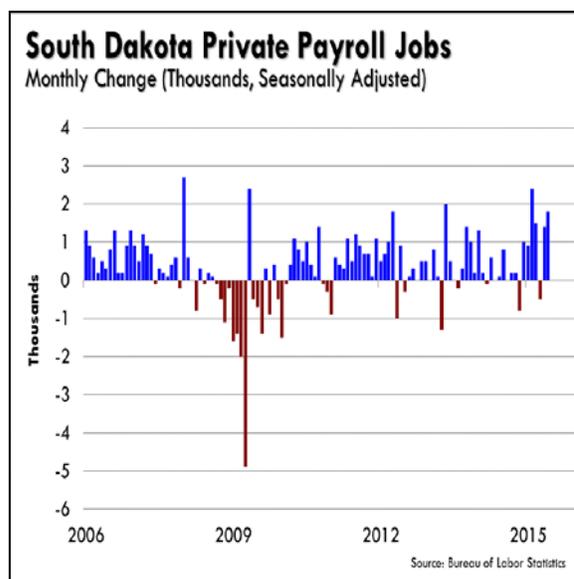
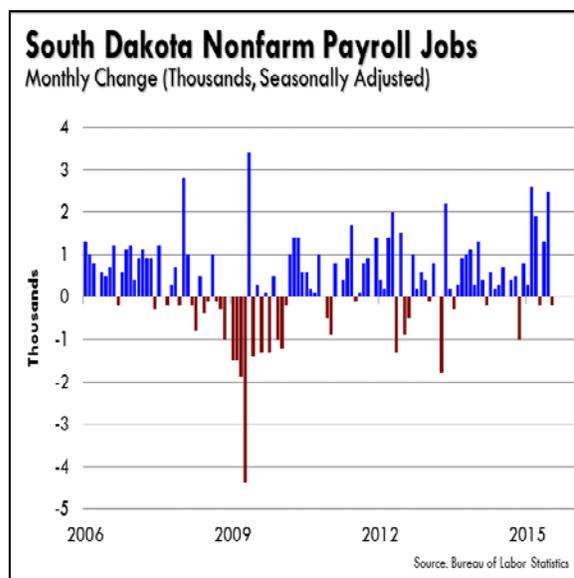
South Dakota nonfarm payrolls declined by 200 jobs, or 0.05 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during July. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 2,500. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in South Dakota increased by 8,900, or 2.10 percent. South Dakota nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls increased by 215,000 jobs in July, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12 month period ending in July 2015, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,915,000 jobs, or 2.09 percent. South Dakota ranks 16th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, South Dakota private sector payrolls was unchanged. Private sector payrolls increased by 1,800 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private sector payrolls in South Dakota increased by 8,100, or 2.34 percent. South Dakota private sector payroll employment has increased in 8 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private sector payroll jobs increased by 210,000 in July, or 0.18 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,853,000 private sector payroll jobs, an increase of 2.43 percent. South Dakota ranks 19th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During July, total government payroll employment in South Dakota declined by 200, or 0.25 percent. Federal government payroll employment declined by 100, or 0.90 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 200, or 1.08 percent, while local government payroll employment declined by 300, or 0.61 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 800, or 1.03 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.54 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 800, or 1.66 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during July were Logging, Mining & Construction (+400) and Educational & Health Services (+200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Leisure & Hospitality (-600) and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-300).

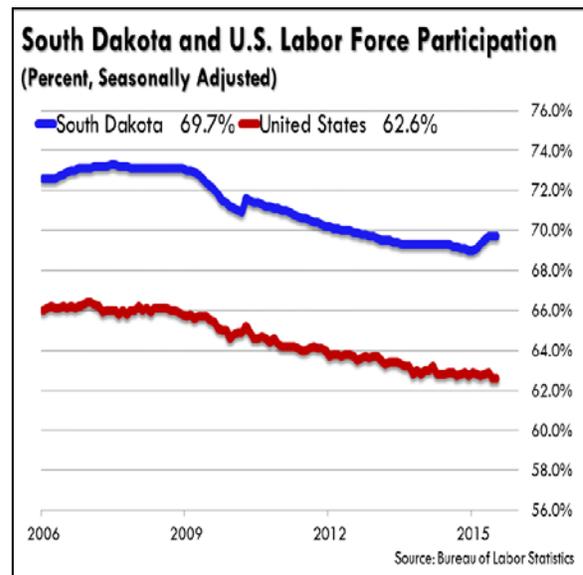
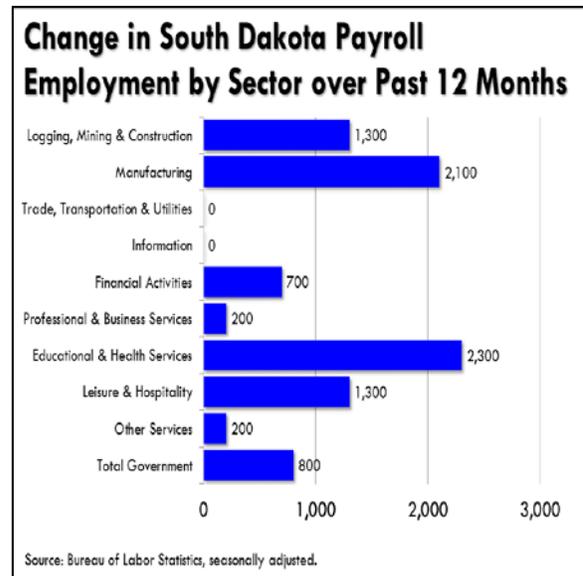
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+2,300) and Manufacturing (+2,100). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (unchanged) and Information (unchanged).

#### Other South Dakota Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in South Dakota was unchanged at 69.7 percent in July. At 69.7 percent, South Dakota has one of the five highest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in South Dakota is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10 year high for the labor force participation rate in South Dakota was 73.3 percent in July 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in South Dakota occurred in July 2004 when the labor force participation rate hit 73.4 percent. The 10 year low for the labor force participation rate was 69.0 percent in January 2015. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in August 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 64.3 percent.

The national labor force participation rate remained at 62.6 percent in July. That rate is 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The rate for June and July are the lowest recorded since October 1977.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the South Dakota civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 67.1 percent in July. At 67.1 percent, South Dakota has one of the five highest employment-to-population ratios in the nation. The employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota is 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota was 71.2 percent in February 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in South Dakota occurred in February 2000 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 71.4 percent. The 10 year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 66.7 percent in January 2015. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in September 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.2 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.3 percent in July. At 59.3 percent, the national employment-to-population ratio is below its level of 59.4 percent when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10 year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for August is scheduled for release on Friday, September 18. The national employment situation report for August will be released on Friday, September 4.

